

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Franz STUHLBACHER et al. Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned
Appln. No. : 10/563,837 Confirmation No: 3504
I.A. Filed : July 10, 2003 Examiner: Not yet assigned
For : DEVICE FOR PRODUCING EXPANDED FLAT MATERIAL

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop **PCT**
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, Applicants hereby submit the following documents for the Examiner's consideration.

(1) U.S. Patent No. 4,102,024 issued July 25, 1978 to BADGER et al., which is discussed in the instant application beginning on page 1 paragraph 2 of the literal English translation;

(2) U.S. Patent No. 4,486,927 issued December 11, 1984 to HUNTER et al., which is discussed in the instant application beginning on page 1 paragraph 3 of the literal English translation;

(3) European Patent Application No. 0 669 176 published August 30, 1995, which is discussed in the instant application beginning on page 1 paragraph 4 of the literal English translation;

(4) U.S. Patent No. 4,621,397 issued November 11, 1986 to SCHRENK, which is discussed in the instant application beginning on page 2 paragraph 2 of the literal English translation;

(5) U.S. Patent No. 4,305,187 issued December 15, 1981 to IWAMURA et al., which is discussed in the instant application beginning on page 2 paragraph 2 of the literal English translation;

(6) U.S. Patent No. 5,088,170 issued February 18, 1992 to SPÄTH, which is discussed in the instant application beginning on page 2 paragraph 2 of the literal English translation;

The following documents were cited in a Search Report conducted in International Patent Application No. PCT/AT03/00194, which is a counterpart of the above-captioned application. In particular, the International Examiner cited:

(7) German Patent Application No. 35 04 136 published August 22, 1985;

(8) German Patent Application No. 197 20 229 published November 19, 1998.

Moreover, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants note U.S. Patent No. 6,526,637 issued March 4, 2003 to GEISLER, which is identified by the Annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited German Patent Application;

(9) International Publication No. WO 00/62954 published October 26, 2000.

Moreover, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants note U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0016246 published August 23, 2001 to KOGLER, which is identified by the Annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited International Publication;

(10) German Patent Application No. 28 08 197 published September 6, 1979;
and

(11) German Patent Application No. 41 43 035 published July 1, 1993.

Each of the above-cited documents are listed on the enclosed completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

Moreover, copies of the International Search Report and of the cited non-U.S. patent documents are being submitted herewith. However, pursuant to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. 1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the cited/listed U.S. patents and U.S. published patent applications are not enclosed herewith. Moreover, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicants note that while this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months from the filing date, Applicants have not received a first action on the merits from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Accordingly, consideration of the enclosed document is required under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(3).

However, if the first action on the merit has been mailed prior to the filing date of this Information Disclosure Statement, Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge any fees necessary to ensure consideration of the documents cited herein to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Franz STUHLBACHER et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil F. Greenblum', written over a horizontal dashed line.

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